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Thursday, March 12, 1953

Dr. and Mrs. Conant arrived this morning from Munich and I had breakfast with them. Afterwards we went to his office. At one o'clock we lunched at Chancellor Adenauer's where Herr Blank, Miss Adenauer, Mrs. Conant, the Blankenhorns and Walter Hallstein joined us. The Chancellor's residence is in a fine park. He has some excellent pictures and tapestries from State Museums, but most of it is incongruously equipped with modern furniture. It is [redacted] spacious and comfortable. We drank a 1951 Scharzhofberger, a Moselle (or more correctly, a Saar wine) of which I used to be [redacted] fond, which I have not had for many years. After lunch I reviewed with him the present situation regarding EDC as I saw it, more or less along the lines of the telegram I sent yesterday. The Chancellor is hopeful [redacted] he can obtain ratification by both Houses of Parliament, and signature by the President in April.

He is looking forward to his trip to the U.S. It will be the first time he has been there, and he is taking his attractive unmarried daughter, who is one of seven children, with him. It was only after he became Chancellor that he ever went to Rome and Paris. He is really a remarkable man, 77 years of age with great vitality, over six feet tall with an impassive face, rather flat features, almost mongolian in appearance. He is witty, and has great dignity. We talked a good deal about the Protocols and the Saar problem. I met the American newspaper correspondents at the Embassy and parried as best I could their embarrassing questions. Tommy and I drove over to Cologne in the late afternoon. It was ~~the first time I had seen it since~~ [redacted] the war. It was badly bombed, but there is a great deal of reconstruction going on. We went to a famous porcelain shop where ~~all the contents were~~ XVIIIth century pieces. I found the prices high, certainly as high as they would have been in New York, and contented myself with a purchase for ten ...

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ten dollars of a Ludwigsberg saucer.

Sam Reber, Tommy and myself had dinner with Dr. Conant, Mrs. Conant having taken to her bed with an attack of grippe. I think the selection of Dr. Conant as High Commissioner was a ten strike. He is wise, modest, with an amazing breadth of interest and tempered judgment, as well as an attractive personality. Both he and his wife speak German adequately.

Tommy and I took the 9:30 train from Bad Godesberg to Paris.

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